

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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Montana How-to

Montana State University

News

BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Bozeman, Montana



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Meeting in Hamilton on August 25 were (from left to right): Chair, Mary Hudspeth; State Librarian, Debbie Schlesinger; and Commissioners Abe Abramson, Marie Thompson and Henry McClernan. Commissioners Victoria Hraaten and Martha Davis are seen from the back.

COMMISSION LOOKS AT FEES, AUTOMATION CONSULTANT

The Montana State Library Commission met August 25 at the newly remodeled (as of Spring 1988) Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton.

The Commissioners approved the proposal by the Advisory Council to hire an automation consultant for the state. They approved a database searching policy for the State Library and failed to approve a searching fee policy for Kellogg-funded projects. The meeting also featured a report from Ellen Newberg, Coordinator of the South Central Federation, on plans for federations' activities.

At the June meeting,

Commissioners approved all of the Advisory Council's recommendations for projects to be funded with 1989 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grants, except for a recommendation to hire an automation consultant for Montana libraries. At the August meeting, the Advisory Council reported they had reconsidered the recommendation, decided there was a need for a consultant and presented the recommendation a second time to the commission. The project was approved.

In keeping with a history of opposing fees for services the Commission did not approve a searching fee policy for Kellogg-funded projects. The policy recommended charging for online searches requested by users and for unusually expensive searches, but

suggested the library assume charges when staff determines an online search the most efficient, most cost-effective way to assist the patron.

The approved database searching policy formalizes the State Library's practice of offering database searching to other state agencies.

Commissioners heard from Ellen Newberg, representing the Federation Coordinators, on the previous day's Federation Coordinators meeting. The group discussed public relations ideas for libraries and agreed to attempt to hold legislative days for each federation in September.

It was also reported that coordinators agree with pursuit of changes in the library laws as recommended by the Law Revision committee (See May *MSL News*) except for the changes in federation law which they feel should not be introduced in the '89 session.

Coordinators felt emphasis should be placed on statewide outreach systems and on local collection development in expending 1990 LSCA funds.

Sheila Cates, Montana State Library Coordinator of Library Development, reviewed the scope of the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services (ICLIS) project. Lucille Gordon explained recent expansions, including literacy efforts and use of

(See "Comm." pg. 4)



Debbie Schlesinger

SCHLESINGER SAYS SHE'S CHALLENGED

Debbie Schlesinger described her first month as State Librarian as "challenging and ever-interesting." Schlesinger was appointed to replace former State Librarian, Sara Parker, who resigned in July. The Library Commission passed a motion at their August meeting to assert that Schlesinger's position title is not preceded by the terms "Acting" or "Temporary." She will be State Librarian until such time as the Commission replaces her with a different person.

The search for a new State Librarian was also discussed at the Commission meeting. The search committee has established criteria for applicants and methods of evaluation. The committee will meet in Helena on October 17 to evaluate applicants. Final interviewing of candidates by the committee and the Commission is scheduled for mid November.

PNC/MLA TO MEET IN BOZEMAN

Montana medical librarians are hosting the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association (PNC/MLA) at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman, October 5-5, 1985. Over 70 librarians from

six states will attend continuing education courses, workshops and meetings.

Those who would like more information on the conference should contact Bill Kehler, Eastern Montana College Library, Billings, Mt. 59101 (657 1666).

BUDGET PROBLEMS GET PRESS COVERAGE

Montana libraries received good press coverage of a bad situation from the *Great Falls Tribune*. Chuck Johnson, a reporter who covers the Helena area for the *Tribune*, said he had been hearing and reading about the financial difficulties of many of the libraries in the state and he decided to write about the issue.

The resulting articles in the July 31st issue of the *Tribune* examine the funding problems in Montana's libraries and cite reasons for the present shortcomings.

Johnson cites statistics which show that in 1986 an average of \$11.61 per capita was spent on public libraries nationally, while in Montana the figure was \$8.28.

Johnson concludes factors including the loss of federal revenue-sharing money, reduced coal-tax funds and the property-

tax freeze combined with the fact that costs of library materials are climbing faster than the national inflation rate, have left many libraries in a seriously threatening financial bind.

Photocopies of the articles can be obtained from Sallie Fenning at the State Library.

FLATHEAD STORY HOURS SPECIAL

Story hours at the Flathead County Library were a little different from the norm this summer. Sherry Savage, a teacher, provided signing as accompaniment to story hour volunteers who read aloud to the Kalispell children. The special feature helped participants to empathize with hearing-impaired persons and to learn a new language.

Another innovative public service offered by the Flathead County Library, is the placement of baby chairs around the circulation area so users have a safe place to leave children. The library also offers a backpack for parents to check out and use while looking around.

The Montana State Library News wants to feature stories about public services in libraries around the state. Librarians who would like to pass along good solutions to common problems may write or call Sallie Fenning at the State Library.

LIBRARIES RECEIVE GIFTS

Four Montana libraries recently received gifts from the estates of three library friends. The University of Montana's Mansfield library received \$235,763.59 and the Missoula Public Library was bequeathed \$20,000, each from the estate of Ada J. Feldman, a Missoula

(See "Gifts" pg.4)

LIBRARY REFERENDA POPULAR

The June 15 issue of Library Journal reports that library referenda are doing well throughout the country, with the disclaimer that the data collected by the author is "only a sample."

The sample, collected for the period, July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987, includes 54 library referenda. Of these, 50 were successful.

80 percent of the referenda were bond issues. The remainder were mainly distributed among sales taxes and property tax millage rate increases.

In reporting their data, library directors were asked to quantify the relative importance of various methods used in their campaigns. The most common methods were the distribution of pamphlets and fact sheets, followed by newspaper ads and articles, endorsements by community leaders, press releases, community group presentations, letters to the editor, library friends groups, and volunteers' telephone contact.



The directors were also asked what factors were most significant in the success of their campaigns. Ranked most important was the need for a new building followed by a history of quality library service, public relations efforts, activity of friends' groups/ library boards, and campaign organizational efforts.

Ranked as relatively unimportant factors were the level of involvement of the business community, the appearance of a competing item on the ballot, and the existence of organized opposition.

COLLECTION ASSESSMENT MANUAL AVAILABLE

The second edition of the Pacific Northwest Collection Assessment Manual is now available and is being mailed to libraries participating in the Pacific Northwest Database Project. The manual can be used as a beginning resource for those considering undertaking a collection assessment or as a source of general information regarding the conspectus approach to collection assessment.

Significant changes from the first edition include more specific instructions on application of assessment techniques, a preliminary report on the Validation study currently underway in the northwest, and updated bibliographies and indexes for the 24 divisions of the conspectus.

Montana libraries not already involved in the assessment project can request a copy of the manual at no charge from Pacific NW Conspectus Database, State Library Building, Salem, OR 97310-0642.

RSVP HELPS YOUNG USERS

The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) Intergenerational Library Assistance Project will help public libraries in four major cities around the United States, provide help to children who use libraries after school. The pilot project has been initiated by the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency.

The program will boost the abilities of libraries to serve the young users while utilizing the skills of older volunteers. The individual libraries will work with RSVP to identify the needs of the

children during after-school hours and develop plans to meet those needs. The programs may address topics such as literacy improvement, drug education and assistance with homework.

NASA OFFERS AUDIOVISUALS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has established a national distribution center for educational materials as part of the NASA Teacher Resource Center Network. For a small charge the center will make available to educators NASA-related audiovisual materials through its mail order service.

Materials available include videotapes, and slide and filmstrip programs featuring current aerospace information.

School libraries interested in receiving a catalog and order form should write on school letterhead to NASA CORE, Lorain County JVS, 15181 Route 58 South, Oberlin, OH 44074.

WHITEHALL LIBRARIAN RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION

Whitehall High School librarian, Al Anderson is featured in the United States Department of Education's, Check this Out: Library Program Models.

In the "Technology to Improve Services" section of the book, Anderson is noted as "a resourceful media specialist" who worked with the school's biology teacher, Todd Breitenfeld, to develop a system to project microscopic images on a television screen.

The "Videotaping through Microscopes" program solved the problem of the school's microscope shortage and proved an effective

(See "Whitehall" pg.4)



CBC CELEBRATES BILL OF RIGHTS

September 25, 1989 will be the two-hundredth anniversary of the date Congress proposed 12 amendments to the United States Constitution. By December 15, 1791, ten ratified amendments became the Bill of Rights.

The Children's Book Council, a non profit organization, commissioned Caldecott award



winner, Ann Grifalcone, to illuminate the events with a full-color poster. The poster costs \$12.50 and measures 25" x 37 1/2". For ordering information and a brochure of other CBC materials available, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to CBC Inc., 67 Irving Place, New York, New York, 10003.

MPLA CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is accepting nominations for awards to be announced at the next MPLA/MLA annual conference in Billings April 26-29. Nominations are encouraged from any MPLA member.

Awards to be given comprise the following: the Carl Gaumer Exhibitor Award, MPLA Distinguished Service Award, the MPLA Legislative Award, the MPLA News Media Support Award, the Literary Contribution Award, and the Beginning Professional Award.

To receive a nominating form and a list of categories with descriptions of awards, write to Helen Higby, Sweetwater County Library, P.O. Box 550, Green River, WY, 82935.

("Comm." cont. from 1) telefacsimile equipment, of the project in Hamilton. Charolette Hennessy, Chair of the Hamilton ICLIS, reported that the Kellogg-funded project was a pilot program and grant funding is available for only one more year. ("Whitehall" cont. from 3) way to spark students' interest in biology.

Check this Out features detailed instructions on how to replicate this and other school library programs that have been successful. Photocopies of highlights from the book with ordering information are available from Sallie Fenning at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, 444-5353.

("Gifts" cont. from 2)

In July, Bernice Boone left Helena's Lewis & Clark Library a trust fund which will bring the library about \$24,000 a year. woman who died on February 20 at the age of 99.

The Livingston Public Library received \$5,000 from the estate of Mrs. Zella Carr Poorman, a longtime Livingston library supporter, who died last November.

Friends of the Library

Montana State Library Commission

Mary H. Hunsicker, Chair
C.E. Anderson, Vice Chair

Dr. Betty McCammon
Nancy A. Stroup
Victoria Brown

Martin B. Davis
Marie Thompson

Commissioner's Assistant: L. R. H. H.
Montana Library Company

State Librarian: State Librarian
State Librarian: State Librarian

Montana State Library

1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

Nonprofit Rate
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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY NEWS

Calendar of Events 1988

OCTOBER

- 1 Sagebrush Federation Reference Workshop - Miles City
- 4 - 7 Pacific Northwest Chapter/Medical Library Association-
Bozeman
- 11 Federation Coordinators Meeting - Billings
- 13 TIGER/GIS Workshop - Helena
- 14 Tamarack Federation Reference Workshop - Pablo
- 15 - 18 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) -
North Carolina
- 18 Trustee Workshop - Conrad
- 19 - 22 Mountain Plains Library Association Conference - Omaha
- 21 - 22 School Library Media Division Retreat - Feather Pipe
Ranch - Helena
- 21 - 22 Public Library Retreat - Lewis & Clark Library - Helena
- 24 Collection Development Committee - Helena
- 28 - 29 Public Library Retreat - Miles Community College-
Miles City

NOVEMBER

- 1 Advisory Council Meeting - Helena
- 9 Technology Committee Meeting - Helena

DECEMBER

- 13 Federation Coordinators Meeting - Helena
- 14 Commission - Helena